

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fifth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fifth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.7% (891) reside in the Fifth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (169) of Fifth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 71.6% of admissions from the Fifth Essex Representative District were male and 28.4% were female.
- Over 57.4% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 90.5% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.8% were black non-Latino, 1.8% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian, and 5.7% were other racial categories.
- 61.9% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.1% were married, and 15.6% reported not to be married now.
- 33.0% of admissions had less than high school education, 42.9% completed high school, and 24.1% had more than high school education.
- 37.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 9.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fifth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fifth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	731	543	245	216	164	352	281
FY '96	654	515	228	169	109	291	214
FY '97	844	642	313	195	102	339	247
FY '98	839	597	298	184	99	431	312
FY '99	916	692	344	207	90	440	342
FY '00	944	687	285	197	76	421	336
FY '01	891	631	261	155	49	393	279

- Since FY 1996, residents of Fifth Essex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol and heroin use. Alcohol use increased by 22% and heroin use by 35%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use increased by 6%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 28% and 70%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fifth Essex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	43.2%	40.7%	7.1%	2.1%	0.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, heroin and marijuana was higher within your District.